

**TUDOR CHELTENHAM  
PCC WILLS**

**THOMAS PACKER 1558**

*A marginal note states "should read Packer all through"*

In the name of God, Amen. The 16<sup>th</sup> day of July in 1558 and in the fourth and sixth years of the reigns of our sovereign lord & lady Philip and Mary, by the grace of God King and Queen of England, Spain, France, both Sicily, Jerusalem and Ireland, defenders of the faith, Archdukes of Austria, Dukes of Milan, Burgundy and Brabant, Counts of Hapsburg, Flanders and Tyrol, I Thomas Packer of the parish of Cheltenham in the county and diocese of Gloucester, husbandman, being sick in my body but of whole and perfect memory thanks be unto Almighty God, do make my testament containing therein my last [will] in manner and form as here after ensues. First and before all other things I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, assuredly believing that he will mercifully receive the same by the merits of the death and passion of his dear beloved son my saviour and redeemer Jesus Christ and my body to be buried within the parish church of Cheltenham aforesaid decently according to the discretion of my executors and overseers herein to be named. And as concerning my worldly goods, chattels and lands my will is that they shall be distributed between my wife and children in such sort and manner as no cause of variance or strife shall or may hereafter ensue between them for the same but that they and every of them to take such part and portion of my said goods, chattels and lands herein as they shall be given and bequeathed by this my last will and testament. First I give and bequeath to my wife Joan Packer for and in the name of her dowry and the full recompense thereof one free tenement or burgage set, lying and being in Cheltenham aforesaid of late in the tenure of John White, the which I will shall be once honestly sufficiently built and repaired by my executors herein to be named at their costs and charges, to have and hold the said free tenement and burgage to the said Packer my wife for term of her natural life for the rent and services due and accustomed unto the same. Item I give and bequeath to my said wife Joan Packer all my years as yet to come in Milton's house, of the Mill with the closes belonging unto the same and adjoining to Budding's house. Item I give and bequeath unto the said Joan Packer my wife the copies of Dugemore's lands and Foster's lands, to have and to hold the same according to the custom thereof. Item I give and bequeath unto the said Joan Packer my wife £40 lawful money of England to be paid unto her by the hands of my executor and further also I give and bequeath unto my said wife six silver spoons, one feather bed and one flock bed with all the apparel belonging to the same, six platters, six pottingers, six saucers & 6 kine. Item I give and bequeath unto Edmund Packer my youngest son my house or tenement of free land set, lying and being within the city of Gloucester, late in the tenure and hands of Richard Cooke, to have and to hold to the said Edmund and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten for ever by the rents and services due unto the said chief lords of the same and for lack of heirs of the body of the said Edmund lawfully begotten as is before said, the said house or tenement to remain to Jane my daughter and to her heirs for ever. Item I give and bequeath unto the said Edmund £20 of lawful money of England. Item I give and bequeath unto Margery my youngest daughter £20 of lawful money of England and my will is in case it shall happen the aforesaid Edmund and Margery or either of them to depart out of this present life before such time as they or either of them shall be married or accomplish the age of 18 years that then the part of money of him or her so dying shall be and remain to the use and commodity of the longer liver of either of them and further my will is that in case it shall happen them both, that is to say Edmund and Margery, to depart out of this present world before the days of their marriages or the ages of 18 years that then the sums of money so to them bequested shall remain to the use of my said wife Joan Packer. Item I give and

bequeath unto George Ridler & Elizabeth Ridler, my said wife's children and to every of them £10 of lawful money of England and my will is that in case it shall happen the said George and Elizabeth or either of them to depart out of this present life before such time as they or either of them shall marry or accomplish the age of 18 years that then the part of him or her so doing shall be and remain to the use and commodity of the longer liver of them and in case it happen them both to die then their part to remain to the use of my said wife Joan Packer. Item I give and bequeath unto Thomas Packer my eldest son all other and singular my free lands and tenements, rents reversions and services with their appurtenances not herein before given nor bequeathed to have and to hold to him and his heirs for ever of the chief lords of the same rents and services due out of them. Item I give and bequeath and assign unto the said Thomas Packer my eldest son all that my lands and term of years which I have as yet to come and in the pastures meads set, lying and being in Twigworth within the county of the city of Gloucester aforesaid, the which I now hold of Sir Nicholas Arnolde, knight, and dame Margaret his wife. Item I give and bequeath unto Edward my son one yearly rent of 40s due to be paid by William Ligon of Arle esquire for the term of certain years as yet to come. Item I give and bequeath unto the said Edward one other yearly rent of 24s due to be paid by Robert Beeke for the years as yet to come and also one half a weigh of barley to be yearly received of the same Robert Beeke. Item I give and bequeath unto the said Edward one other yearly rent of 9s due to be paid out of the lands of Walter Frenche the younger of Alstone. Item I give and bequeath unto Eleanor Packer, Alice Packer and Jane Packer my daughters and to every of them £30 of lawful money of England to and for the preferment of their marriages as is aforesaid, one bedstead with an honest bed and all the apparel belonging to a bed, four silver spoons with gilt knobs at the ends, one pot and one pan, 4 platters, 4 pottingers, two saucers and two kine and my will is in case it shall happen any of my foresaid daughters, Eleanor, Alice and Jane, to die and depart out of this present life before such time as they or either of them shall be married or accomplish the age of 18 years that then the part or parts of them so dying shall be ad remain to the longer liver of either of them. And furthermore also my will is that Richard Lawrence of Foxcote and William Riche of Cheltenham aforesaid shall have the rule and governance of my said three daughters and all their legacies and bequests to them by me herein given and bequeathed until the day of their marriages or age of 18 years as is before said, then the said Richard and William being sufficient bound unto my executors herein to be named for the true and just delivery of all their said legacies and bequests as before herein by me is willed. Item I give and bequeath unto Walter Brushe my son-in-law one house set, lying and being in Westal called Millers House for the term of the natural life of the said Walter, paying therefore yearly 9s 2d and I do also give and bequeath to the said Walter Brushe two oxen whereof the one remains in his own custody and the other to be unto him delivered by my executors herein to be named. Item I give and bequeath unto my son-in-law William Riche's three children and to every one of them six sheep. Item I give and bequeath unto the three children of my daughter Joan Atwell and to every of them six sheep. Item I give and bequeath to every one of my brother John Parkin's children unmarried four sheep. Item I give and bequeath unto my two men servants and two women servants to every of them six sheep. Item I give and bequeath unto every of my brother Smale's two children one calf of this year's weaning.

The rest of all and singular my goods, chattels and debts, my funeral charges discharged, my debts and legacies paid and performed, I give and I bequeath unto my sons Thomas Packer and Edward Packer, the which said Thomas and Edward I do constitute, ordain and make my executors and the above-named Richard Lawrence and William Riche my overseers to the intent this my last will & testament may be the more better accomplished

and performed, utterly renouncing and revoking all other former wills and testaments whatsoever they be at any time heretofore by me made.

These being witnesses called and desired to the same: Sir Richard Cokes, priest and curate of Cheltenham aforesaid, Thomas Higges, William Riche and John Lewes of Cheltenham aforesaid and Richard Lawrence of Foxcote aforesaid & with others. By me Richard Coxe, by me William Riche, John Lewys

Probate: 8 September 1558

### **RICHARD MERRETT 1581**

In the name of God Amen. The 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1580 and the 23<sup>rd</sup> year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, defender of the faith etc I Richard Merrett of Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester, yeoman, being sick of body but whole of mind and in perfect remembrance, thanks be given to God Almighty, make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I give and bequeath my soul to Almighty God to be partaker of the everlasting inheritance of the kingdom of heaven with the fellowship of the blessed saints in the heavenly glory with our blessed lord and saviour Jesus Christ with the most excellent price of his most precious blood has purchased for me in his infinite mercy. Secondly I commend my body to the earth to be buried in the churchyard of Cheltenham aforesaid, firmly believing that at the general day of our rising it shall cast off corruption and rise incorruptible. Thirdly as concerning my worldly goods wherewith God of his great goodness has endued me, my very will is that they shall be disposed in manner and form following. First I give to the church of Cheltenham ten shillings. Item I give to Thomas my son all my lands in Alston in the parish of Cheltenham, to have and to hold to him and to the heirs male of his body lawfully to be begotten for ever. And for default of such issue male my will is the said lands shall descend and come to Anthony my second son and to the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten for ever. And for default of such issue male the said lands to descend and come to Richard my third son and to the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten for ever. And for default of such issue male the said lands to descend and come to Christopher my youngest son and to the heirs male of his body lawfully to be begotten for ever. And for default of such issue male the said lands to remain to my right heirs at the common law for ever. Item I give and bequeath unto my said son Thomas thirty pounds in money to be employed to his best commodity by my executors within one year next after my decease and my best brass pot and six silver spoons. Item I give and bequeath unto Anthony and Richard my sons to each of them fifty pounds in money to be likewise employed to their uses by my executors within one year after my decease. Item I give to Anthony my son my best brass pan. Item I give and bequeath to Christopher my youngest son, besides my base tenure lands in Cheltenham which my will is he shall have after twelve years, twenty pounds in money to be also employed to his use by my said executors within one year after my decease. Item I give and bequeath to Alice my daughter thirty pounds in money to be likewise employed to her use by my said executors within one year after my decease provided always and my very will is that if my said daughter shall wilfully bestow herself in marriage without the assent and agreement of my wife and executors that then all her said portion shall be distributed amongst the rest of my children then living by the discretion of my said executors. And if it happen any of my said sons to depart this life before they shall be of the age of 22 years, at which age my will is their portions with the commodities and increase thereof shall be delivered to them, or if my said daughter shall happen to depart this life before she shall be married, then my will is that the portion or portions of any of them so deceasing shall be distributed amongst the rest of my said children then living by the discretion of my said

executors where most necessity shall require. Item I give and bequeath to my sister Margery twenty pounds and the best of my heifers. Item I give to Alice my wife besides such years as I have given unto her of my base tenure lands and besides her dower of my free lands all my corn now sowed and this year to be sowed upon my grounds and also all my implements of household stuff, the two cisterns excepted which I will shall remain in my said house wherein I now dwell as standers to the use of my said son Christopher. Item I give my said wife all my cattle when the heriots due upon my decease shall be paid and also all the wood which I have bought in Charlton, provided always and my express will and meaning is that my said wife shall be at the charges of keeping and finding of my said children until such time as they shall be by the discretion of my executors thought able to be bound apprentices to some convenient occupations which I desire may be done by my said executors with all diligent care as my trust is in them. And if my wife shall happen to refuse the charge of bringing up of my said children in manner aforesaid and until they shall come to their several ages of fourteen years then my meaning and will is that this my gift and bequest of her portion of goods to cease and I do revoke the same, any former gift notwithstanding. And whereas I have a certain pasture ground lying in Charlton Kings for certain years yet to come my will is that the commodity of the same during the years shall be employed amongst my wife and children by the discretion of my said executors. Item I give to the poor people of Cheltenham thirty shillings whereof I will twenty shillings shall be paid to them by my said executors the day of my burial and the other ten shillings at some other convenient time to be thought mete by my said executors within one year after my decease. Item I give to every one of my brother Richard Jefferie's three sons ten shillings apiece. Item I give to every one of my godchildren 4d. Item I give to my servants William and Amy to each of them four bushels of barley to be delivered at Michaelmas next. Item I give to Richard Bridges of Carmarthen ten shillings. Item I forgive Mr Okeland, schoolmaster of Cheltenham, 3s 4d and two bushels of malt which he owes me. And further my will is that if my debts shall not be paid to my executors according to my expectation so as the legacies by me given may well be satisfied and paid in as full and ample a manner as I have given the same, then my will is that the portions by me given may be indifferently abated by the discretion of my executors. And for that it may be that I have not made mention by this my last will and testament of all such goods and chattels as I am now possessed of, my will is that my executors, after my debts paid and funerals discharged, shall see the rest of my goods unbequeathed distributed amongst my wife and children at their discretion. And for the executing of this my last will and testament I constitute and appoint my well-beloved friends Thomas Machin of Cheltenham, gentleman, and John Powell of Cheltenham aforesaid my lawful executors of this my present last will and testament to the only uses of my said wife and children in manner and form aforesaid for the due performance of the same according to the great trust I have reposed in them as well for the disposing of my said goods to the uses aforesaid as also for the good education and preferment of my said children in virtue and learning and that for God's love.

In witness hereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal the day and year first above written. Witnesses hereunto: Thomas Packer, Davy Vaughanne, Edward Packer, Roger Smithe  
Probate: 26 April 1581

### **THOMAS HIGGE 1589**

In the name of God Amen. The 12<sup>th</sup> June 1588 and in the 30<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth etc I Thomas Higge of Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester, yeoman, being sick in body and of good and perfect memory, thanks be given to God, do make and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I give

and bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my maker and redeemer, and my body to be buried in the chancel of the church of Cheltenham. And as touching the disposition of such worldly wealth as God of his goodness has endowed me, my will and meaning is that the same shall be disposed in sort following. First I give to the poor of the town of Cheltenham three pounds, to the poor of Charlton Kings twenty shillings, to the repairing of the highways leading from Cheltenham to Gloucester twenty shillings. And whereas I have a lease of the rectory or farm of Cheltenham for many years yet to come my will and meaning is that Elizabeth my wife shall have and enjoy the same rectory and farm for and during the term of years therein yet to come if she shall so long live and that the profit of the same farm yearly to be received by my said wife (the charge thereof being deducted) shall be divided into three several parts whereof my said wife to have two parts thereof for her maintenance and bringing up of my children and that the other part to be employed yearly for a stock to be raised to the use of my children and that the same third part shall be yearly employed and bestowed to the use of my said children according to the wisdoms and discretions of my said wife and of my cousin Richard Stephens, my brother William Higge, my brother-in-law Robert Stephens, my cousins Thomas Stephens and James Stephens, my brother Richard Higge and my cousins William Higge and John Higge or the most part of them whereof my said wife to be one during her life, provided always and my meaning is that if my said wife shall happen to die before the term of years which are yet to come in the said rectory of Cheltenham shall be expired that then the residue of the same term of years then to come shall be and remain to my eldest son Thomas if he shall be then living and if not to the next eldest of my sons then living so that and upon condition that such of my said sons as shall be the eldest and to take benefit of this my gift do yield and pay, or cause to be yielded or paid, unto the residue of my said children such sum and sums of money at such time and times as shall be thought mete and convenient by the wisdoms and discretions of my friends aforementioned or the most part of them as shall be then living. And in case the eldest of my sons shall refuse to yield and pay such sum and sums of money at such time and times as shall be thought mete and convenient by my said friends aforementioned or the most part of them that then the next eldest of my sons to have the benefit of this my gift upon the like condition as is afore specified if he so will and so from one to the other until one of my said sons shall accept the same. And if they shall all refuse the same then my said friends or the most part of them to dispose and employ the same amongst my children or children's children according to their wisdoms and discretions. And forasmuch as some ambiguity or doubtful question may happen to arise and grow between my said wife and children and the rest of my friends aforementioned in construction of this my last will my earnest desire and request is that my good friends William Norwood, Arnold Logan and William Dennis, esquires, and Reginald Nicholas, Thomas Rogers and John Powell, gentleman, or the most part of them, shall always decide and end such doubtful matters and questions without any further suit in law. And moreover, whereas I have heretofore purchased to me and to my heirs one messuage and half yardland lying in Prestbury, my will and meaning is that that Thomas Higge, my brother's son, shall have and enjoy the same messuage and land to him and his heirs for ever so that he, the said Thomas Higge, shall acquit and discharge by a sufficient act in law my executor of the sum of forty pounds, parcel of the legacy due to the said Thomas by the last will and testament of my brother Walter Higge, his father, before the feast of All Saints next coming. The residue of all my goods and chattels moveable and unmoveable not bequeathed, my debts paid and funeral expenses discharged, I wholly give

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and bequeath to my said wife whom I do make and ordain my sole executrix of this my last will and testament.

In witness hereof I have hereunto set my seal the day and year above said. In the presence of Alice Fowler, John Powell, William Dennis, Reginald Nicholas, John Crother.

Parcels of plate given by Thomas Higge in his lifetime and delivered in the presence of William Dennis, gentleman, Reginald Nicholas, gentleman, John Powell, gentleman, and others as hereafter follows. To my son Thomas one great goblet and my great ring, to my son Edward one great salt, to my son Richard one other goblet, to my son William one cruse covered with silver, to my son Robert four silver spoons, to my son Harry four silver spoons, to my son John four silver spoons, to my daughter Joan my second salt, to my daughter Anne my little salt.

Probate: 22 April 1589

**CHARLES BADGEHOTT 1596**

In the name of God, Amen. The 14<sup>th</sup> April 1596 I Charles Badgehott of Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester, gentleman, sick in body but of perfect remembrance, God be praised, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I commend my soul to God my maker and redeemer and I appoint my body to be buried in the chancel of the church of Cheltenham. Item I give and bequeath to the poor of the parish of Cheltenham four pounds to be bestowed on them in money or in victuals within one month after my decease. All the rest of my goods moveable & unmoveable, chattels & debts whatsoever I have and bequeath to Elizabeth my beloved wife and her I make and appoint the sole & whole executrix of this my last will & testament.

In witness whereof I have put hereunto my hand the day & year above written: Charles Badghotte. Witnesses hereof: Edward Packer, William Higgs, William Wanton, clerk, John Mayowe

A codicil to be added to the will of me Charles Badgehotte als Badger. Whereas there are diverse messuages, lands, tenements & hereditaments in sundry places within this realm of England conveyed and assured & to be conveyed and assured unto me and my heirs, as well upon concealment as otherwise, and for that my will, intent and meaning is that all such messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever which I have or ought to have within the realm of England of any estate of inheritance shall be to George & Edward Badgehotte, my brethren, & their heirs. Now I the said Charles Badgehott do will, devise & bequeath all the said messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments before mentioned & all the deeds, charters & evidences concerning the same and every part thereof unto my said brethren, George Badgehott & Edward Badgehotte & their heirs. And I do will & appoint all further assurances whatsoever touching the said lands to be made & conveyed unto my said brethren George & Edward Badgehott & their heirs in such sort as the same should have been conveyed unto me.

In witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand the 15<sup>th</sup> April in the 38<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

The mark of Charles Badghott. Witnesses hereof: Thomas Chamberlayne, William Wanton, clerk, Humphrey Norris, Henry Hygges, John Dole, his mark

Probate: 13 November 1596

**WALTER MYLTON 1596**

In the name of God, Amen. The 19<sup>th</sup> day of January in the 31<sup>st</sup> year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, defender of the faith etc and in the year of Our Lord 1588 I Walter Milton of Westal within the parish of Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester, husbandman, being in bodily health and perfect remembrance, laud and praise be unto Almighty God, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner & form following. First I give and bequeath my soul into the merciful hands of Almighty God and my body to the service of my prince. First as concerning the distributing of my goods I give and bequeath unto my brother William Mylton seven sheep. Item I give unto my brother Thomas Mylton and Robert Mylton seven sheep apiece. Item I give unto Richard Lattner, my sister Margaret's son, seven sheep. Item I give and bequeath unto my sisters Joan and Marie Mylton eight sheep apiece. Item I give and bequeath to William Lattner, my sister Margaret's son, and Eleanor Lattner, my sister Margaret's daughter, eight sheep apiece. Item I give and bequeath unto Francis Clevely, my sister Annis's son, eight sheep. Item I give and bequeath unto Thomas Clevely, John Clevely & Walter Clevely, my sister Annis's sons, eight sheep apiece. Item I give and bequeath unto Mary Clevely, my sister Annis's daughter, eight sheep. Item I give and bequeath unto Robert Mylton and Henry Mylton, my uncle Richard Mylton's sons, eight sheep apiece. Item I give and bequeath unto Annis Mylton and Alice Mylton, my uncle Richard Mylton's daughters, eight sheep apiece. Item I give and bequeath unto Margaret Chambers, my aunt, 20s. Item I give and bequeath unto all the persons above named, my aunt only excepted, 16 tods of wool to be equally divided amongst them and forty shillings of currant English money to every of them apiece. Item I give and bequeath unto the poor people of the parish of Cheltenham and Charlton Kings eight pounds of currant English money. Item I give and bequeath unto the poor people of the parish of Newent forty shillings of currant English money. Item I give and bequeath unto the poor people of Prestbury 20s of currant English money. Item all the rest of my worldly goods unbequeathed and given I give and bequeath unto Richard Mylton, my father, Richard Lattner, Thomas Clevely, my brothers-in-law, William Mylton, Thomas Mylton and Robert Mylton, my brethren, whom I make and ordain my executors and overseers of this my last will and testament.

The mark of Walter Mylton

A true note of all the debts the said Walter Milton owed at the day of the making hereof. First unto Arthur Muckle 42s or else the Welsh sheep, the which were brought to the place where the said Arthur appointed but he came not to receive them according to promise. Item unto one Turner of Dymock 15s 1d. Item unto William Norwood esquire two bushels of wheat for the harms my horses did unto him, awarded by George Cartynder and Rhys Free.

A note of all the debts that were owing unto the said Walter Mylton at the day of the making hereof. First William Norwood esquire for Welsh sheep to be paid at the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord last past £3 13s 2d. Item Thomas Welche of Badgeworth £6 16d, witnesses unto the same Thomas Hawkins and Thomas Peter, which sum of money is due for 24 sheep and due at or upon the Purification of Our Blessed Lady next coming. Item William Rogers of Chedworth for the rent of a leasow called Foots Hill lying in the fields of Charlton Kings 20s which sum of money was due at the feast of St Michael the Archangel last past. Item Richard Cooper of Colesbourne 4s 6d. Item Robert Hyett's wife of Stow 4s. Item Thomas Greene and William Greene of Newent for lease which they bought of me in Knaps Grove at Lammas 10s 8d, Turror of Dymock witness. Item William Whyte of Newent, smith, left unpaid

for a dark bay horse 4s, William Greene and Phil Greene witnesses, Item Richard Hill the younger of the parish of Newent left unpaid for Welsh sheep 40s, Thomas Hill his uncle was at the drawing of them, Giles Boyse knows the man which was witness unto the bargain. John Smyth of Newent for a bay mare 18s 6d which was due at St James day last past, witness John Harington, tanner. Item John Asheman of the parish of Newent, dwelling at a place called Kilcot 30s, witnesses William Greene and John Pitt, 10s of the said sum was due upon the feast of St John Baptist and 20s upon Lammas day. Item the same John Asheman has three kine of mine, the which he does wrongfully detain, which three kine I bought of Thomas Coxe of Newent and paid £5 6s 8d for the said three kine, two of them are coloured brown red and the other black, witness John Pitt of the parish of Newent, which was at the delivering of them unto me, the said Walter Milton, and at the payment of the money and presently I drove them on to a ground called Carraways and Thomas Nelme of the parish of Newent, being landlord and guide of the ground, did help me to place them in the ground aforesaid. Christopher Pleasington, being likewise guide of the same ground, saw the cattle there and had charge of them and when they had been there about four or five days they were removed to a certain ground called Borolts End and there remained all the summer and when they were placed upon the ground with other three kine then John Pitt and William Greene came to the ground and there were witnesses unto a bargain made between the said John Asheman and the said Walter Mylton for five bullocks and a coulter which the said Walter bought of the same John Asheman, which John Asheman confessed there he was paid for them beforehand and he confessed that he was indebted unto the said Walter 30s. John Newman, being likewise guide of the same ground, had charge of them. Item one ground lying and being in the parish of Newent called and known by the name of Knapps Grove, which he holds of John Pitt, which ground all the rent is paid for beforehand until the feast Whit Sunday next excepting one penny. The said John Pitt must discharge the tithes and other all duties payable out of the ground.

The mark of Walter Mylton. Witnesses to this my last will and testament: William Maner, Thomas Dodwell, Edward ap John's mark, Richard Brockbancke.

Probate: 5 October 1596

### **WILLIAM PATES 1596**

In the name of God, Amen. The 29<sup>th</sup> day of March 1596 and in the 38<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England, France & Ireland Queen, defender of the faith etc I William Pates the elder of Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester, gentleman, being sick of body but in perfect good memory, I thank my God, do make, constitute and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I give and commend my soul unto Almighty God, my creator, preserver & redeemer, hoping to be saved by the death and blood-shedding of my saviour, Jesus Christ. And my will is that my body shall be buried in the Lady Chapel within the church of Cheltenham as near to my father & mother, whose bodies there lie, as may be. And as for all my worldly goods which the Lord has given me I will, give and bequeath them as follows. First I give, will & bequeath to the churches of Cheltenham and Charlton Kings toward the reparations of the said churches six shillings and eight pence to every of the said churches to be paid within one month after my decease. Item I give, will and bequeath unto Richard Pates, my son, my piece of arable land and pasture called Alpheis lying in Charlton Kings with all the wood thereunto belonging, with all manner of evidences and writings concerning the same, to have

and to hold to him, the said Richard Pate, his heirs and assigns, for ever. Item I give and bequeath to every one of my godchildren, excepting James Hawkins of Westal who is paid already, two shillings apiece to be paid at the day of my burial. Item I give, will and bequeath unto William Gregorie of Charlton Kings, my old servant, three shillings four pence. Item I give, will and bequeath unto all my daughters now living viz. Alice Webbe of Abbington, Joyce Cavell of Woolley, Margaret Dickines, Jane Bowland and Eleanor Crowther three pounds to every one of them of currant English money to be paid within one year next after my decease. Item I give and bequeath unto Thomas Stephens of London, apprentice, son of Thomas Stephens late of Abington, deceased, thirty pounds of currant English money to be paid to him or to his use at the age of twenty one years. Item I give, will and bequeath unto William Cavell, son of Anthony Cavell my son-in-law of Woolley in the county of Somerset, five pounds. Item I give, will and bequeath unto the other two sons of my said son-in-law Anthony Cavell, viz. John Cavell and Anthony, four pounds apiece to be paid unto them at their several ages of twenty one years. And I give unto the daughters of my son-in-law Anthony Cavell four pounds apiece to be paid unto them and every of them at their several days of marriage if they marry with the advice, consent and agreement of my overseer. Item I give, will and bequeath unto Richard Mannsell, son of Robert Mannsell and Agnes Mannsell my daughter, late of Charlton Kings, deceased, ten pounds to be paid to him at the age of twenty one years. Item I give, will and bequeath unto Elizabeth Mannsell, my foresaid daughter's daughter, ten pounds. Item I give, will and bequeath unto Jane Mannsell, sister of the said Richard & Elizabeth, five pounds, to be paid to the foresaid Elizabeth & Jane at their days of marriage if they marry with the advice, consent & agreement of my overseers. Item I give, will and bequeath unto my son Richard Pate's daughter, Edith Pates, five pounds to be paid unto her at the day of her marriage if she marry with the advice, consent & agreement of my overseers. Item I give, will and bequeath unto my son-in-law John Dickines' son, Edward Dickines, five pounds to be paid unto him at the age of twenty one years. Item I give, will and bequeath unto my daughter Margaret Dickines' daughter, Elizabeth Dickens, four pounds. Item I give, will and bequeath unto my daughter Alice Webbe's daughter of Abbington, Katherine Webbe, forty shillings to be paid to the said Katherine and Elizabeth at their days of marriage if they marry with the advice, consent & agreement of my overseers. And if any of these my nephews, kinsmen or kinswomen that have any legacy or gift in this my will and testament given them, excepting Thomas Stevens my kinsman, in my will expressed depart this life before he, she or they or any one of them have their legacy or legacies in this my will bequeathed due or received the same that then the whole brother or brothers, sister or sisters that survive shall have his, her or their part or portion of legacy or legacies to be parted equally amongst them, but the legacy of Thomas Stevens to remain to my executor if he depart this life before it be due or he have received it. Item I give, will and bequeath unto every one of my servants that are now dwelling with me in my house and shall continue to dwell with my wife until Michaelmas next, excepting John Hues, twelve pence apiece to be paid at the feast of St Michael next coming. Item I give unto John Hues, my old servant, three bushels of barley to be paid at the feast of St Michael next coming. All the rest of my goods real or personal, moveable or unmoveable, my debts paid and my funeral expenses ended, I give, will and bequeath unto Elizabeth Pates, my loving and beloved wife, whom I do make, constitute and ordain my sole and whole executrix of this my last will and testament. And I do constitute and appoint for my overseers of this my last will and testament my loving and beloved son and sons-in-law Richard Pates, John Crowther, Anthony Cavell, Thomas Bowland & John Dickines, to see this my last will and testament to

be in all points fulfilled and performed, according unto the true purport and meaning thereof. And for their pains taken herein I give and bequeath to my son Richard Pates five pounds and to John Crowther forty shillings and to Anthony Cavell forty shillings, to Thomas Bowland forty shillings and to John Dickines forty shillings to be paid to my said overseers within one year after my decease. In witness whereof I have set hereunto my hand in the presence of those whose names are underwritten as witnesses.

Witnesses hereof: Richard Pates, John Crowther, Thomas Bowland, John Dickines, William Panton, clerk, curate of Cheltenham

Memorandum: that in my lifetime I paid unto my son-in-law Anthony Cavell to the use of his sons six pounds thirteen shillings four pence which is in part of their legacies in my will bequeathed, praying him to pay it according to my will.

Probate: 8 January 1596

### **ELIZABETH PATES 1598**

In the name of God, Amen. The 3<sup>rd</sup> October in the 40<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God Queen of England, France & Ireland, defender of the faith etc I Elizabeth Pates of Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester, widow, being sick in body but of good and perfect memory, praise be unto Almighty God, do make and ordain my last will and testament in form and manner following viz. First I commend my soul unto Almighty God my maker and redeemer and my body to be buried in the church of Cheltenham as near unto the body of my husband as may conveniently be. And as for my worldly goods which God has sent me I give and bequeath them as follows. First I give towards the reparations of the church of Cheltenham and Charlton Kings to each of them six shillings to be bestowed by the discretion of my executors. Item I give and appoint for the mending of the highways about Sandford Mills at the discretion likewise of my executors forty shillings. Item my will is that if my son William Pates shall suffer and permit my executors quietly to take and carry away at convenient leisure such goods and movables as I shall leave unto them and do also from time to time behave himself well and honestly in the judgement of my executors and overseers then I give and bequeath unto him twelve pounds to be paid unto him by forty shillings a year during these next six years after my decease if he so long shall live. Item whereas I promised unto John Tayler of the city of London, haberdasher, in consideration that he had received to be his apprentice Walter Pates, my said son's son, to pay unto the said John Tailer the sum of ten pounds in five years by forty shillings a year if the said Walter did so long continue with him as apprentice, now my will and appointment is that my executors shall discharge four of those yearly payments which are yet behind in case the said Walter do serve and continue with his master as above said and not else. Item I will that Elizabeth Pates, daughter of my foresaid son, shall be honestly and decently kept and brought up at the cost and charges of my executors by their discretion until the age of fourteen years except her father in the mean space be found sufficiently able to perform the same himself. Item I give and bequeath unto Joyce Cavell my daughter twelve pounds to be paid unto her or bestowed for her necessary uses by my executors within the space of six years by forty shillings a year. Item I give and bequeath to the youngest son of my said daughter five pounds which his father owes unto me. Howbeit, my meaning is that his said father Anthony Cavell shall have the use of the said five pounds until his son come unto the age of twenty one years so he find sufficient sureties to be bound with him unto my executors then to make payment thereof to discharge them of this legacy. Item I give and

bequeath unto Elizabeth Mannsell, my daughter's daughter, one flock bed, one bolster, one pair of sheets and five pounds in money to be paid unto her at the day of her marriage. Item I give and bequeath unto Richard Mannsell, my daughter's son, eight pounds towards his maintenance in the university of Oxford if he be preferred thither and otherwise this legacy to be void. Item I give unto Joan Maunsell, sister to the said Elizabeth and Richard, three pounds to be paid at her day of marriage. Item I give and bequeath unto Margaret Dickens, my daughter, half a dozen of silver spoons price forty shillings. Item I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth Dyckens, my said daughter's daughter, one heifer. Item I give and bequeath unto Jane Bowland, my daughter, ten pounds to be paid within two months after that her husband Thomas Bowland has discharged cancelled and delivered into the hands of my executors all such bonds and obligations as were entered into with him or for him either by my late husband or by my son Richard Pates or else has found sufficient sureties to save harmless my executors from all such bonds. Item I give, pardon and release unto my said son-in-law Thomas Bowland, doing and performing that which is above required, all such sum or sums of money as are due unto me from the said Thomas, the sum of five pounds which I owe unto him by my husband's will and forty shillings due for his wife's gown cloth first discharged and deducted. Item I give and bequeath unto Jane Bowland, daughter to the said Thomas and Joan, ten pounds to be paid at the day of her marriage, provided always and my will and meaning is, that if the said Thomas Bowland do not discharge the foresaid bonds or provide unto my executors such sufficient security for their saving harmless as they shall accept of them, these former legacies and releases concerning himself, his wife and daughter shall be utterly void and of none effect. Item I give and bequeath unto Eleanor Crowther, my daughter, five pounds. Item I give and bequeath unto Eleanor Crowther, my daughter's daughter, ten pounds to be paid at her day of marriage. Item I give and bequeath unto Edith Pates, my son's daughter, forty shillings to be paid at her day of marriage. Item I give and bequeath unto Thomas Pates, my son's son, eight pounds to be paid at his age of one and twenty years. Item I give unto my daughter Joyce Cavell, Margaret Dickens and Jane Bowland to every of them a pair of sheets. Item I give unto John Byshopp, my trusty servant, a heifer. Item I give unto Elizabeth Browne, my goddaughter, a pair of sheets. Item I give unto all my daughters that shall be present at my burial every of them a morning gown. The rest of my goods and chattels both moveable and unmoveable, my debts paid and my funeral expenses discharged, I give and bequeath unto my loving son and son-in-law Richard Pates and John Crowther whom I make my executors of this my last will and testament. And I appoint for my overseers of this my testament my loving cousin Thomas Meachin, gentleman, and my sons-in-law Thomas Bowland and John Dickens, giving for their pains in seeing this my testament to be performed, to each of them a morning cloak. In witness whereof I have hereunto put my mark in the presence of those witnesses whose names are underwritten. Witnesses hereof: William Panton, clerk, James Hasted, Walter Hornebee, John Crowther, Richard Pates, Eleanor Crowther.

A schedule of certain legacies added by the said Elizabeth Pates unto this her will the 11<sup>th</sup> October 1598.

Item I give and bequeath unto Walter Pates, my son's son above mentioned in this present will, the sum of eight pounds of lawful English money to be paid to him at such time as the whole term of his apprenticeship shall be fully expired, yet provided that if the father of the said Walter shall not behave himself as is before in this will required, that then this legacy shall be utterly void. Item I give and bequeath more towards the amending of the highways forty shillings to be bestowed to that use where my executors shall think most needful. Item I

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give and bequeath to my daughter Eleanor Crowther my best bed and bolster and my best coverlet and my best petticoat. Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Margaret Dickyns my second bed and bolster and my second coverlet. Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Jane Bowland my third bed, bolster and coverlet. Item I give and bequeath to the above-named Elizabeth Maunsell my best gown and my second petticoat. Item I give and bequeath fourteen pounds in gold to be divided amongst my daughters.

Probate: 15 November 1598

*Transcribed for VCH Gloucestershire by Judith Kimber.*